

PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

www.unanderraparish.org.au

www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Unanderra-Parish-102440924742769/



Parish Priest: Fr Duane Fernandez
 Email: Duane.Fernandez@dow.org.au
 Mobile: 0414 626 357

Polish Chaplain: Fr Jerzy Slowinski
 Email: slowinski54@gmail.com
 Mobile: 0410 225 975

Parish Assistant: Sr Kerry Gardiner
 Email: Kerry.Gardiner@sosj.org.au
 Mobile: 0421 463 871

Parish Pastoral Council President: Mr Chris Lyon
 Mobile: 0403 296 837

Parish School: St Pius X Primary School
 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets
 (PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526
 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

School Principal: Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

Parish Secretary: Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

Parish Office: Email: unanderra@dow.org.au
 Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au
 Phone: 4271 1068

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) – 28 APRIL 2024

Parish Vision—We are a diverse community united by our love for Jesus and for one another, constantly seeking to grow in this love especially through the Eucharist. We welcome everyone and help each other to discover their unique gifts, joyfully working together as one to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people.

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Mon 29 Apr <i>St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor</i>	Mass: 7am	
Tues 30 Apr <i>St Pius V, pope</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Rosary: 6pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 1 May <i>St Joseph the worker</i>	Mass: 7am	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm
Thurs 2 May <i>St Athanasius, bishop, doctor</i>	Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm	<i>Note: no 7:45am Mass today</i> Mass: 9am
Fri 3 May <i>Sts Philip and James, apostles</i>	Mass: 7am Extended Adoration: 7pm - 10pm	Mass: 9:30am
Sat 4 May	Rosary: 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am
Sun 5 May	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased

Roger Baxendale,
Helen Pham, Theresa McKinnon

Prayers for the sick

Michael Murphy (Figtree), Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles,
Antoinette Sakr, Kerrie Maidment, Josephine Moran, Pat Nolan

Anniversaries

Jane Roche, Ron Bishop, Colin Heapy,
Peter O'Keefe, Jean Piper, Corazon Domingo,
Minnette Villanueva, Michelle Villanueva



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

unanderra@dow.org.au / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm
 Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: 8:30am-3pm

Message from Fr Duane

As we enter into the month of May, we remember that May is traditionally the **“Month of Mary”**, where we especially focus on our relationship with Mary our mother – mother of the Church and model of faith. To this end, I encourage all of you to read a short Encyclical letter of Pope St Paul VI, called “Mense Maio” (“The Month of May”), published April 29 1965, during the Second Vatican Council. As is often the case with the writings of St Paul VI, it could just as well have been written in our own time, as he calls for an intensification of prayer for the Church and peace in a troubled world, especially through the powerful intercession of Mary. You can find this letter online, or if you would like a hard copy, feel free to contact me. I share these words of the Pope and Saint, and may we all deepen our closeness with Mary, who always brings us closer to her Son, as we continue to intensify our prayers for peace:

“Peace is not solely the work of man. It is also, and primarily, a gift from God. Peace comes from heaven. It will truly reign among men when we have finally proved ourselves worthy to receive this gift from Almighty God. Just as the happiness and destiny of nations are in His power, so also are the hearts of men. And so we shall obtain this lofty benefit by praying to God; by praying with constancy and watchfulness, as the Church has been wont to do from her very beginning; by praying, in particular, for the intercession and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the Queen of peace.”

Possible Mass time change – Saturday Vigil Mass

This Saturday and next Saturday (27th April and 4th May), we will be collecting responses from parishioners who attend the Vigil Mass, regarding possible changes of Mass time from 6pm to 5pm, especially in relation to Daylight Saving. If you sometimes attend the Vigil Mass but will not be attending on these two Saturdays, please contact me or the Parish Office if you would like to have input into this decision.

Fr Duane Fernandez

Message from Sr Kerry

When packing up the family home I laid claim to a small cross stitch that a family member had made for my mum. This framed cross stitch welcomed one when the front door was opened. It hung there in its simplicity. Most people would not have known the significance of the design, but I did know.

The pattern is taken from the Navajo American Indians. If you look closely, you will notice there is a small mistake in the work. That mistake is purposely there for the Navajos believe that in life nothing is perfect. This masterpiece is reminder of that.

Are you as realistic as the Navajo American Indians?



Sr Kerry Gardiner

ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND

April	Church Washing	Susan Adams	
Sat 27 Apr	Church Cleaning	D Attard, L Lathourakis	
Sat 27 Apr	Lawns	Walker, Winner, Walsh, Carrigan, Bennett	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 27 Apr	N O'Donoghue	B Collins	
8am 28 Apr	T Vaafusuaga	A Kelly	School Holidays
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND

May	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 4 May	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
Sat 4 May	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children's liturgy
6pm 4 May	T Chicharo	C Cleary	
8am 5 May	C Lyon	G Simmonite	Kira Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	M Murphy (FT), S Alessi, H Murphy		

PARISH NEWS

ALPHA – “Come and See” Celebration – Wednesday 29 May

About 200 people have experienced Alpha in our parishes of Unanderra and West Wollongong since the beginning of 2023. Many have found it to be a life changing experience, making new friendships, and deepening their faith, reconnecting with God or connecting with God for the first time.

The best way to experience what it is all about is to come along to the “come and see” night, where you will be able to hear from people who have experienced the most recent Alpha and see snippets of the film series. To register for the one-off come and see evening, either email us at alphawwu@gmail.com or fill out this Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/alphacomeandsee2024>

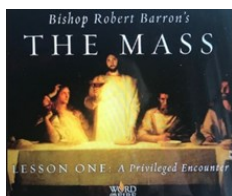
Youth Alpha



We have had some high school aged parishioners express an interest in Youth Alpha. This is a special youth-focused program for high school aged children to explore faith together in a fun and interactive environment. The details of are yet to be confirmed, but at this stage if you know of anyone who might be interested please contact Fr Duane at duane.fernandez@dow.org.au

Adult Faith Enrichment Evenings

A 6-week video series on ‘The Mass’ presented by Bishop Robert Barron will be held in St Joseph’s room, Wednesdays from 7:00pm with a cuppa & cake available; video will start at 7:30pm.



Community Fun Day - 11:30am Sunday 5 May at Edmund Rice



College. Each year we have 150-200 people of all ages and backgrounds come along to this day to enjoy a bbq or picnic, fun, games and fellowship. Come along and bring your friends!

Parish Calendar

The Parish Pastoral Councils of Unanderra and West Wollongong have compiled a simple calendar of key events across the two parishes. It is a living document, which will be added to throughout the year. If you would like to suggest events to be included, or if you have difficulty accessing the calendar, please contact the Parish Pastoral Council Chair, Chris Lyon, or the Parish Office (contact details for both at top of bulletin). View the Parish calendar on the link below <https://tinyurl.com/parishcalendar2024>.

Christian Meditation:



The Christian Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings in the St Therese Parish Centre 6pm - 7:30pm. **ENQUIRIES:** Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**. All are welcome

Parish Finances - week ending 21 April 2024

\$524	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$665	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$130	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$300	Planned giving envelopes	
\$420	Direct debits (weekly average from March).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Morning tea - Sunday 5 May 2024

Morning tea will be served after 8am mass next Sunday 5th May. Everyone is welcome to join us in St Joseph’s Room for a cuppa and a chat.

Carmelite meeting - Saturday 4 May 2024

The next meeting of the Lay Carmelites will be 4 May 10am for 10:30am in St Joseph’s room. Call Ann on **0427 235 955**.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME – AIRS SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024

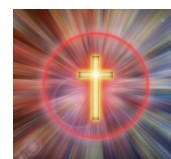
On the Journey this week: Fr Mark De Battista says being pruned by God is necessary if we are to grow in our faith. Mother Hilda tells how to see the sun shining in the faces of all we meet. Fr Tony Percy says that we are not called to be busy but to be fruitful. Michelle Vass says Mafalda’s prayer is a great way to test when and how we see the risen Christ. And Mark Raue on being the face of God, being Jesus’ feet, hands, eyes expressing compassion and love to all we meet. Listen at jcr.org.au



A VOCATION VIEW

St John Vianney spoke of the priesthood as the ‘love of the heart of Jesus.’ To be called to the priesthood and/or religious life is to love the people of God in a unique and dynamic way. (1 John 3)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au



CATHOLICARE'S AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE WED 5 JUNE 2024

This forum is returning across the Diocese, with sessions in Campbelltown, Wollongong and Nowra. The half-day information session will provide seniors with practical information on the aged care system and healthy ageing. Expert presentations from CatholicCare staff will be joined by presenters from the Seniors Rights Services NSW and the NSW Fire & Rescue Service to discuss topics such as:

- accessing support services,
- keeping your mind and body fit, and
- advocating and supporting older people.

When: Wollongong Wednesday 5 June at 9.30am-1pm.

Where: The Fraternity Club, 11 Bourke St, Fairy Meadow. Places are limited. To register, call **02 4227 1122** or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events.

For any other information, contact Jane Hollier on **0417 018 152** or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au.

SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS

We are created, male and female, in the image and likeness of God. From the beginning, creation manifests unity and difference, bestowing on women and men a shared nature, calling, and destiny, and two distinct experiences of being human. Sacred Scripture testifies to the complementarity and reciprocity of women and men, and to the covenant between them that lies at the heart of God’s design for creation. Jesus considered women his interlocutors: he spoke with them about the Kingdom of God; he welcomed them as disciples, as for example Mary of Bethany -- ‘XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops’ (Synod on Synodality) Synthesis Report.

BANQUET: PENTECOST INTENSIVE 2024

When: Friday 17 May - Wednesday 22 May

Where: Carmel House, Varroville

Join the MGL Sisters for Pentecost 2024 as we discover the depths of God’s love through our Banquet Intensive and accept the invitation to radical intimacy with the Trinity. Feast on God’s powerful love for you, open up to the gifts of the Spirit, savour times of powerful input, prayer, and practical workshops, and find the charismatic generosity of God unleashed in your own life of mission and discipleship.

Enquiries: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Registrations: <http://www.trybooking.com/CNSXA>

28 APRIL - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

First Reading - Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm - I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
he poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! R.
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. R.
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' R.

Second Reading - 1 John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'